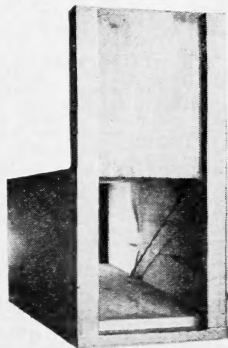


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RESERVE

How TO MAKE A CAT TRAP



LEAFLET



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HOW TO MAKE A CAT TRAP

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STRAY or vagrant cats are abandoned house cats, or their offspring, that have been left unfed by their owners and thus forced to gain a precarious living by hunting and by scavenging in garbage cans, on dumps, and in similar places. These stray cats abound in every city, town, and rural community, and are the most common carnivorous mammals in many places far removed from human habitation. As they are largely nocturnal in their habits and hence seldom are seen, it is not generally realized that they are so numerous. More than 50 stray cats were caught in one trap set in only two locations in the suburbs of an eastern city during the course of 18 months, and there were still many remaining. One humane society put to death nearly a million vagrant cats in New York City in four years.

Vagrant cats are usually hungry, mangy, and diseased, and under such conditions quickly revert to their wild habits and characteristics. They are rapacious, cautious, and unsocial. They mingle with valued cats and contaminate them by transmitting diseases and parasites, and have been known also to disseminate diseases among human beings. Stray cats often become a nuisance by filling the night air with sleep-preventing yowls. They become skilled hunters and seriously menace song, insectivorous, and game birds, rabbits, squirrels, and other small forms of beneficial wild life, as well as poultry.

As a measure of public safety and to assist in conserving valuable bird and other small-animal life, and as an act of mercy to the cats themselves, all unowned cats should be destroyed. They can be readily caught in any well-constructed and baited trap. The one described in this leaflet has proved satisfactory and is simple in construction. It consists of a box with a drop door, held up by a projecting wire, one end of which is attached to a false floor, or treadle. The weight of the cat on the treadle beyond the fulcrum pulls back the wire and releases the door.

Anyone who can use a square, a saw, and a hammer can make the trap from the following instructions, using well-seasoned, dressed, pine lumber three-fourths of an inch thick:

The following materials are necessary for building the trap:

1 12-inch board 14 feet long.	2 small screw eyes.
1 1½-inch strip 7 feet long.	1 piece of 2 or 3 mesh wire netting
1 ¾-inch strip 2 feet long.	6 inches square.
20 inches of No. 3 gage wire.	

Cut the 12-inch board to make the following pieces:

1 bottom board 30 inches long.	1 treadle board 27 inches long.
1 top board 28½ inches long.	1 drop door 13½ inches long.
2 side boards 29¼ inches long.	1 end board 10½ inches long.

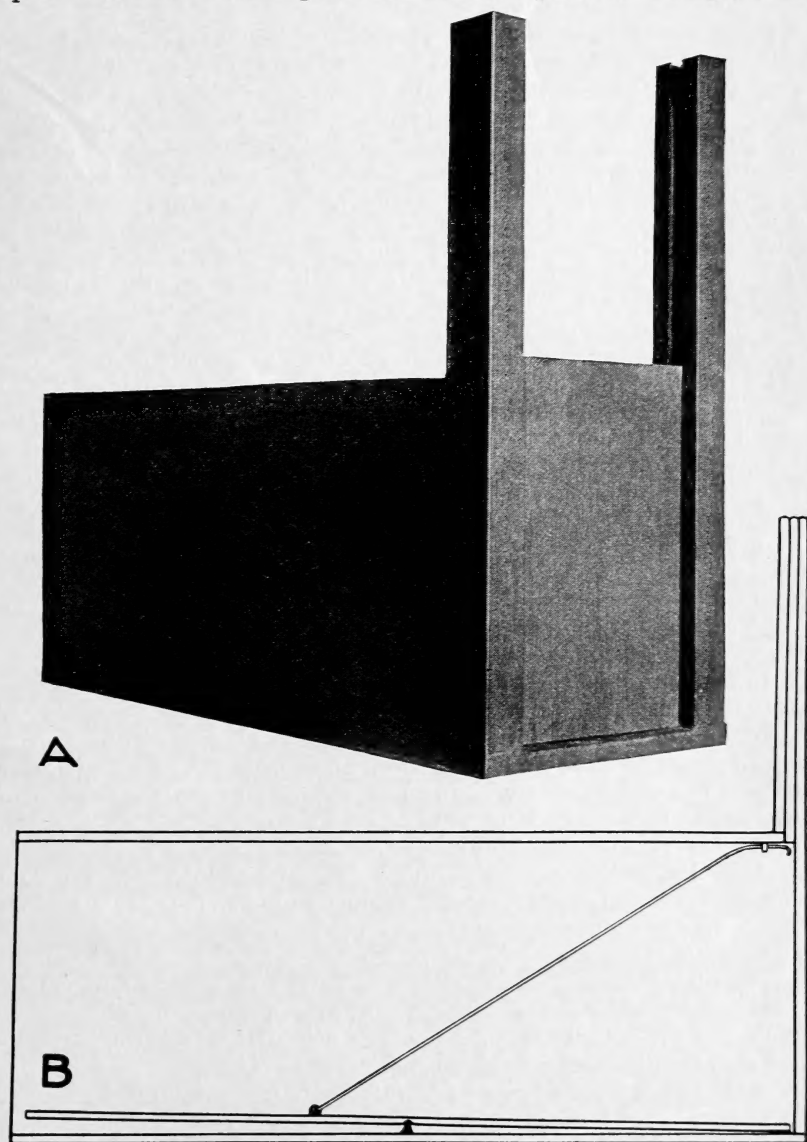
Cut the 1½-inch strip to make the following pieces:

2 drop-door guides 24 inches long.	1 fulcrum piece for treadle 10½ inches
2 drop-door guides 11¼ inches long.	long.

Cut the ¾-inch strip to make 2 center guide strips 1 foot long.

Cut or plane a quarter of an inch from the edge of the treadle board so that it will move inside of the trap without binding. Cut

a V-shaped groove about a quarter of an inch deep across the treadle board at right angles, and $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the front end to fit over top of fulcrum. Cut or plane the fulcrum piece to a ridge, 1 inch



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FIGURE 1.—A, Cat trap showing construction of door guides; B, side view of cat trap showing treadle-board assembly

high, to fit into the groove in the treadle. Cut or plane edges of drop door so that it will slide freely in guides. Cut an opening 4 by 5 inches in center of the rear end board and tack a piece of 2-mesh or 3-mesh wire netting over it to provide ventilation.

Nail the bottom, sides, top, and end in position to form the box. Fasten the fulcrum at right angles across the bottom board, 15 inches from the front end. Nail the drop-door guides to front of trap to form grooves for the drop door, as illustrated in Figure 1, A. Screw one screw eye into the top side of the treadle half an inch from the right side and $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the front end. Screw the second screw eye into the under side of the top board one-half inch from the right side and 1 inch from the front end. Fasten one end of the trigger wire to the screw eye on the treadle by bending to form a loop through the eye. Set the treadle in place so that its groove fits over the fulcrum. Pass the loose end of the trigger wire through the upper screw eye and bend the end back sharply at a length that will allow it to project just enough to hold up the door when the trap is set and to release it when the rear end of the treadle is pushed down. (Fig. 1, B.) The trap should be given two coats of good paint inside and out, to prevent warping when used outdoors.

Fresh fish is undoubtedly the most attractive food bait for cats. A fish or fish head, should be hung on a nail or hook provided for the purpose at the back end of the interior of the trap. When fish is not available, fresh meat of any kind, cooked or raw, may be used. A half ounce of dried catnip tied up in a cloth or preferably catnip oil, if available, also makes excellent bait and will sometimes attract a well-fed cat into a trap when food bait has failed.

The trap should be set in or near places that stray cats might be expected to visit in search of food. Open garbage cans at the rear of dwellings, as well as those that occasionally overflow, are visited regularly and furnish good trapping prospects.

The trapped animal should be inspected by looking through the screened opening in the rear end of the trap. If a neighbor's pet cat or other valuable animal has entered the trap, it can be released. The simplest and most humane method of disposing of the trapped cat is to gas it by inserting into the trap a tablespoonful of calcium cyanide or a wad of cotton saturated with 1 ounce of carbon disulphide or chloroform. A heavy blanket thrown over the trap will assist in keeping the gas confined.

CAUTION.—Carbon disulphide is highly explosive and inflammable, and calcium cyanide and its fumes are extremely toxic. Both these chemicals should be handled with great care.

If the cat is not asphyxiated in the trap, it may be taken out of the trap by fastening a burlap bag over the front end and raising the trap door. As some cats are apt to come out in a hurry, the bag should be securely tied or hooked over nails driven around the exit. With the cat tied in the bag, it is a simple matter to gas or drown it in an ash can or other similar container having a tight-fitting lid. Many city governments, and also local organizations, such as animal rescue leagues or humane societies, are prepared to collect and dispose of unwanted animals upon request. This service where available greatly simplifies the disposal of trapped stray cats.

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